

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00  
FBOE-00 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-15 OPR-02 STE-01  
/064 W

-----074353 151417Z /50

O R 151303Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8301  
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY KARACHI  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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DEPT FOR A/SY/OPS/FO, A/SY/OPS/T, A/OC/S, A/FBO, NEA/EX;  
NAIROBI FOR RSS, ATHENS FOR OIC/TSO, KARACHI FOR CO, CO. "B",  
RCO, FRANKFURT FOR OIC/RTC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC, AVCE, AFSP  
SUBJ: FIRE IN BEIRUT CHANCERY - DAMAGE REPORT

REF: A) BEIRUT 3255; B) ST. MARS/O'BRIEN TELCON 6"14"78

1. POST INITIAL ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE TO COM'S OFFICE AND  
ADJACENT AREAS IS 25-30 THOUSAND DOLLARS. AT THIS POINT  
ESTIMATE IS A BEST GUESS AND UNFORSEEN PROBLEMS MAY RAISE  
THIS FIGURE. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS ANY STRUC-  
TURAL DAMAGE THE A/C EQUIPMENT ROOM WAS GUTTED AND THE COM'S  
OFFICE AND ITS CONTENTS WERE HEAVILY DAMAGED BY INTENSE  
HEAT AND SCORCHING. SECRETARIA AREA, DCM'S OFFICE WERE  
DAMAGED BY SMOKE, HEAT AND WATER. RSO REQUESTS THE ASSISTANCE  
OF TSO AND/OR SEABEE ASAP TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE NEED  
FOR A CON SEC TEAM.

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2. AS REPORTED REFTAL (A) FIRE WAS LOCATED ON THE EIGHTH  
FLOOR OF THE CHANCERY IN A SMALL EQUIPMENT ROOM, CONTAINING  
TWO WINDOW TYPE AIR CONDITIONERS. ROOM IS SO LOCATED THAT THE  
AIR FROM THE A/C'S IS FORCED THROUGH TWO VENTS INTO COM'S  
OFFICE. APPARENTLY FIRE STARTED FROM A SHORT IN THE CONTROL  
WIRING OF ONE A/C. SPARKS IGNITED DEBRIS ON THE EQUIPMENT

ROOM FLOOR AND FLAMES SPREAD THROUGH WOODEN VENTS INTO COM'S OFFICE WHERE A LARGE GSA SOFA CAUGHT FIRE.

3. WHEN RSO ARRIVED ON SCENE AT APPROXIMATELY 0622 MSGS WERE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER EQUIPMENT ROOM TO PUT OUT FIRE WITH HAND HELD FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. THE INTENSE HEAT AND SMOKE PREVENTED US FROM BREAKING INTO THIS ROOM BECAUSE THE ROOF CONFIGURATION PRECLUDED ACCESS BY MORE THAN ONE MAN. AS A RESULT WE WERE FORCED TO CLIMB THE EXTERIOR LEDGES BETWEEN THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH FLOORS TO GET AT THE A/C'S AND ATTEMPT TO FORCE EXTINGUISHER NOZZELS THROUGH A/C OPENINGS. THIS WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL AS WE HAD TO FORM A HUMAN CHAIN TO PASS ALONG EXTINGUISHERS AND WE COULD NOT REACH THE FIRE'S SOURCE INSIDE THE EQUIPMENT ROOM.

4. BY THE TIME THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED TWO MSGS WEARING SCOTT AIR PACKS HAD ENTERED THE COM'S OFFICE THROUGH THE HALLWAY BUT AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE HEAT AND SMOKE WERE UNABLE TO ATTACK THE FIRE. RSO DIRECTED THESE MEN TO WITHDRAW AND ATTEMPT TO CONTAIN THE FIRE FROM THE HALLWAY WHICH THEY DID. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GOT A HOSE UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING FROM THEIR PUMPER TO A SMALL TERRACE OUTSIDE THE COM'S OFFICE AND EQUIPMENT ROOM. AS FIREMEN/MARINES/RSO ENTERED COM'S OFFICE TOGETHER THERE WAS NO COMPROMISE AND MSGS IMMEDIATELY SECURED CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. THE FIRE WAS EXTINGUISHED BY 0750 AND FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPARTED. MARINES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMAINED IN THESE OFFICES DURING REMAINDER OF DAY WHILE THE AREAS WERE CLEANED OUT, A SECURE PERIMETER WAS REESTABLISHED AND THE SUITE LOCKED OFF.

5. THE EQUIPMENT ROOM WAS ENTIRELY GUTTED, THE A/C'S DESTROYED WITH ALL WIRING. THE COM'S OFFICE WHILE NOT AS SEVERELY DAMAGED WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE REPAIR. OUR INTERIM REPAIR ESTIMATE OF THIS OFFICE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1) REPLACE WIRING; 2) REPLACE ACCOUSTIC TILE CEILING; 3) REPLACE ALL CEILING LIGHT FIXTURES; 4) REPLACE FURNITURE, RUGS, CURTAINS; 5) REPLACE TERRACE DOOR.

THE SECRETARIAL AREA AND DCM OFFICE ALL SUFFERED DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF HEAT, SMOKE AND WATER. THE ENTIRE EIGHTH FLOOR SUITE WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE CLEANING AND REPAINTING.

6. RSO IS REQUESTING TSO/SEABEE ASSISTANCE TO DETERMINE FINAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND EXTENT A CON SEC TEAM WILL BE REQUIRED.

DECONTROL 12/31/78  
LANE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BEIRUT03300  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780250-0605  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BEIRUT 3255  
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**SAS ID:** 2344503  
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**Subject:** FIRE IN BEIRUT CHANCERY - DAMAGE REPORT  
**TAGS:** ASEC, AVCE, AFSP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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